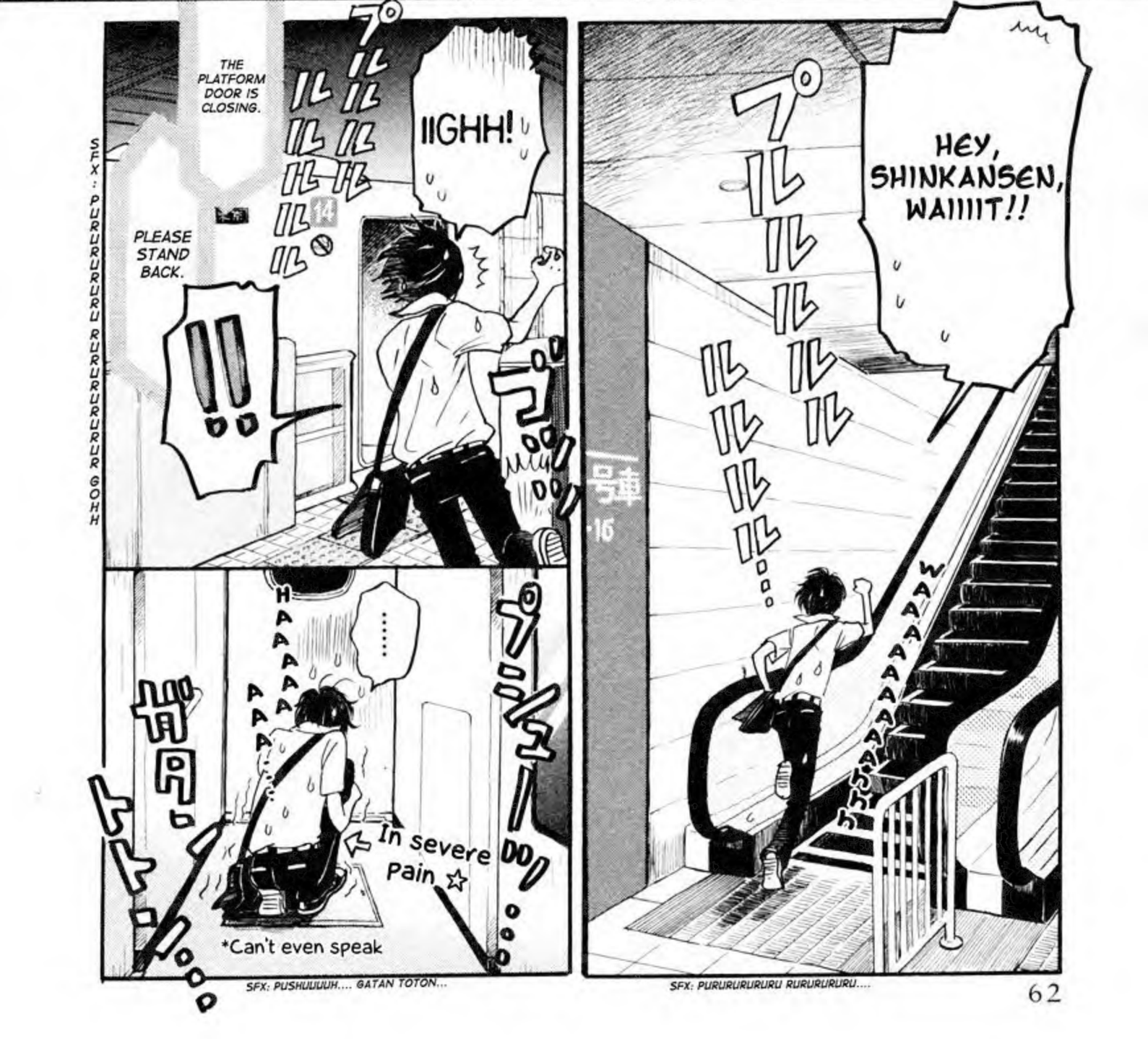
Chapter. 109

Osaka ③


THE PLATFORM DOOR IS CLOSING.
PLEASE STAND BACK.
IIGHH!
!!
SFX: PURURURURU RURURURURUR GOHH
HEY, SHINKANSEN, WAIIIIT!!
WAAA

SFX: GATANN TOTONN
I...
I... MADE... IT...
I'M FINALLY GETTING HOME...
SFX: PAAAAN

NOW I SHOULD ...
BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO TOKYO BY 24:00.
GOOD...
I THOUGHT FOR A MINUTE THERE
I MIGHT END UP HAVING TO SLEEP OVER.
戻る
新大阪~東京
Until you tell me the entire story
I will not admit defeat
HAHAHA
SERIOUSLY ...
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?
I MEAN...
HA HA HA HA
角行
香車
桂馬
と
王将
金将

— HOW DID IT END UP LIKE THIS?
—2 hours earlier.
And?
What kind of woman is she?
ずぼら
ずいっ
SFX: ZUIHH
HUH?
How long have you been going out together?
Which one of you proposed your engagement?
HUH?
Was it her? You?
U-UM...

THE ONLY MOVE YOU HAVE HERE IS 4-7 FU, RIGHT?
CAN'T YOU JUST PLAY?
DOES IT REALLY MATTER?
I SEE... SO YOU WERE THE ONE THAT PRO-POSED?
NO... SHE 'MADE YOU SAY IT', RIGHT?
— SHE'S DECISIVELY OLDER THAN YOU.
BY QUITE A BIT I'D SAY...
5... NO, 8... YEARS OLDER?
IN THAT CASE SHE'S JUST UNDER 30...
SO BASIC-ALLY,
SHE SAID SOME-THING LIKE 'If you won't marry me, I just might leave you.' or 'I get nervous so I can't go on dates.' RIGHT?
HUU
Kiriyama-ku~~n came again today
I've been hearing all sorts of things at the com-pany recently...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT ?!
THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?!!
ばいっ
4-7 FU
SFX: FUBYSHUHH BASHIIHH
— ... NO.
NO?! WHAT PART WAS WRONG? TELL ME!
NO ONE MADE ME SAY ANYTHING.
I SAID IT OF MY OWN WILL.
2-9 HI
SFX: PASHIH

SFX: GIRIGIRIGIRIGIRI
HO-
HO~~~H
SO YOU WERE THE ONE THAT DECIDED YOU WOULD 'GET MARRIED', DID YOU?
*Cannot face the board (reality)
HMHM.
ギリギリギリギリ
-WELL ...
I KNEW THAT.
将棋会館
-THEN, WHAT WAS THE LEAD UP TO THAT CONVER-SATION?
YOU'RE STILL ONLY 19 YEARS OLD, AREN'T YOU?
ISN'T THAT A BIT TOO EARLY?
I MEAN, HAVE YOU EVEN EVER DATED A WOMAN BEFORE?
Huh? What?
What's going on?
Apparently Kiriyama's done with being single...
Apparently Raidou-san suddenly cut way too far into the heart of things!!
Awawa...
SFX: HARA HARA (SUSPENSE)
GETTING IN A TIZZY ABOUT THE FIRST WOMAN YOU'VE GONE OUT WITH
MAY BE OKAY, BUT IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL ABOUT MARRIAGE YOU CAN BE SURE YOU'LL REGRET IT LATER!!
ASSUMPTIONS
Whatever, just play, please!
Also those kinds of specula-tions are really rude!
Don't you get it, Kiriyama?!

THIS IS YOUR SENPAI TALKING OUT OF CON-CERN!!
NOT IN SHOGI... IN 'LIFE'!
WHY DON'T YOU LOOK AT THIS FROM MORE OF A 'GLOBAL' VIEW?
ONCE WOMEN GET MARRIES, THEY CAN'T 'CHANGE' THAT EASILY, YOU KNOW?!
'CHANGE'? WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
I CAN'T SAY I KNOW.
HAH!! YEAH, RIGHT! ANYHOW, I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT THIS TIME. THAT'S ALL!!
UNIVERSA

ANYHOW?
ANYHOW JUST THIS TIME?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, ANYHOW?
SHUT UP!! YOU DAMN KID!! IF SHE'S THE FIRST PERSON YOU'VE EVER GONE OUT WITH AND YOU'RE THINKING 'IT HAS TO BE THIS PERSON!!', THAT'S JUST LIKE SAYING ANYBODY'LL DO, GODDAMMIIIIIIIT!!

SFX: KUWAHH KAH
LISTEN TO ME, KIRI-YAMA...
THINK VE~~RY CAREFULLY.
ONCE YOU GET MAR-RIED... YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HANG OUT AND DO WHAT YOU WANT ANYMORE, DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?!
FOR EXAMPLE... JUST THINK ABOUT IT!!
WHEN A KIND OF... —NO, A VERY CUTE GIRLS GETS CLOSE TO YOU, WHAT DO YOU DO?
SFX: PUN SUKA
Raidou-san, I thought you were never gonna get here!
oh, you're late!
AND THEN WHEN YOU START FEELING GOOD AROUND THAT GIRL...
Hey... Don't cling so much.
Oh, what's the harm?
....We're happy, aren't we?
—NO, IF YOU'RE ABLE TO DO THAT,
THE TWO OF YOU SHOP AND EAT TO-GETHER ...
ONCE YOU'VE GOTTEN MARRIED
DOING STUFF LIKE TAKING LEISURELY DRIVES TOGETHER...
—LET ALONE TRIPS TO ONSENS AND STUFF LIKE THAT...
REQUIRE THESE GRAND STRATEGIES IF YOU WANNA DO THEM!!

'Sorry, my little sister has to stay over on short notice.' AND THINGS LIKE THAT WHICH ARE AROUND 89% MADE UP STORIES, YA KNOW?!
'CAUSE YOU KNOW, THERE ARE WOMEN OUT THERE THAT'LL SAY, 'My mother is sick' OR
NO, NO, I MET HIM.
COULDN' 'A BEEN A LIE TO GAIN YOUR AFFECTION, COULD IT?
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
YOU WERE GOING ON ABOUT 'STALKERS' BEFORE, RIGHT?
SFX: POKAAN
AAH, RAIDOU-SAN! HE'S TALKING ABOUT A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HE HAD WITH A CABARET CLUB GIRL!
IF YOU WENT TO A SHOP AFTERWARDS, THAT'S JUST 'ACCOMPANYING' HER.
—— EVEN IF YOU MET AND SHARED A MEAL TOGETHER
YOU DID ACTUALLY DATE HER AND EVERY-THING, RIGHT?
DON'T SAY THAT!
YOU CAN'T CALL THAT A DATE, OKAY? YOU GET THAT?
WERE THOSE REALLY DATES?
YOU MUSTN'T SAY THAT!
There are some things you just shouldn't say out loud even if you know they're true!
Doesn't seem to have any idea what he's being told...
SFX: BUWAH

SO DO YOU UNDER-STAND THIS...?
PLEASE DON'T WRITE THIS OFF AS JUST SOME ADULT LECTURING YOU.
YOU'VE GOT TO THINK THIS OVER CARE-FULLY...
SFX: GOHH
GOT IT?
A DIVORCE COSTS 7 TIMES WHAT A WEDDING DOES, YOU KNOW?!
—— WELL, THAT'S IF YOU CAN GET HER TO LEAVE YOU...
THERE ARE SOME MORE DEVASTATING CASES...
WHERE ...
THEY DON'T LEAVE YOU AND KEEP MILKING YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE GOT.
SFX: BUH BUH... (MUMBLING)

KUHH
HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE KITASHINCHI CABARET GIRL HE GOT INVOLVED WITH.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S SEPARATED FROM HER NOW, THEY'RE STILL TECHNICALLY TOGETHER
AND SHE MAKES RAIDOU KIRYUU PAY HER HUGE LIVING EXPENSES EVERY MONTH! FOR HIM, IT'S LIKE COUGHING UP BLOOD, SAYING THOSE THINGS ALOUD!!
Raidou-sannn
SFX: BUWAHH...
—— AND IN A WAY KIRIYAMA IS ALSO PRETTY INCREDIBLE
FOR FOLLOWING THE LINE OF PLAY HE WORKED OUT WITH THIS INTENSE SOLILOQUY RUNNING IN THE BACKGROUND...
KIRIYAMA REALLY IS SOMETHING.
Concen-trate... You've gotta focus... Kiriyama Rei...
*Fatigue
HAA
HAA
HAA
THIS GUY REALLY IS A CANDIDATE FOR FUTURE MEIJIN!!

SFX: NECHI NECHI NEH DORI (PERSISTANT)
Doesn't even have the energy to interrupt anymore
Taking all he has not to make a mistake in any move until he gets to check-mate.
HAA
HAA
YOU NEED TO TAKE CAUTION!!
—— AND AS A MAN LIKE THAT STILL HAS REMARKABLY MEAGER CHARM, WHEN A WOMAN AP-PROACHES YOU WITH MAR-RIAGE...
BOTH AS A PLAYER AND AS A HUMAN BEING... I MEAN, AS A MAN YOU'RE STILL DEVEL-OPING...
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG...
ネチネチ
ネチ
SFX: GUTTARI... (EXHAUSTED)

As someone who could be the next Meijin, she's looking
at your lifetime income.
SHE'S NOT LOOKING AT YOU,
SHE'S LOOKING AT THE 'MONEY' BEHIND YOU.
IT PAINS ME TO SAY IT,
BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SAY THIS BLUNTLY ...
Aa...
Do_Dossss
And here comes his jealousy over this young person's first looooove!!!
Do
SFX: BUWAH

SFX: SARATTO (CASUALLY)
NO MATTER WHAT SOMEBODY THAT DOESN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HER SAYS ABOUT IT,
I'M NOT CHANGING MY MIND.
OH, I SEE.
THEN LET ME MEET HER.
—IF YOU'RE THAT SURE OF YOURSELF,
THEN YOU WOULDN'T MIND ME MEETING HER, RIGHT?
HUH?
AH, HOW ABOUT
THE 3RD GAME OF THE KIRYUU CHAMPIONSHIP?
THAT'LL BE AT MY HOMETOWN OF KAGOSHIMA! ☆

SFX: SAHH SUTAH PONN
KAGOSHIMA'S A GREAT PLACE! ☆ IT'S GOT TONS OF WONDERFUL ONSENS!!
U-UH,
BUT,
RIGHT NOW HER AND HER FAMILY ARE HAVING THIS PROBLEM...
ALL THE MORE REASON !!
ALL OF THEM MUST BE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY EXHAUSTED FROM BEING FOLLOWED AROUND BY A STALKER, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO BETTER TIME THAN A TIME LIKE THAT TO SOOTH THE FAMILY'S PAIN WITH AN ONSEN, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU CAN'T BRING THEM?
AH, I SEE, I SEE...
HUH?
BUT, UM...
SFX: HEEEH HEEEH HEEW....
HE~~H.
YEP, EXPECTED AS MUCH...

SFX: DOOON
Time Until the Last Shinkansen to Tokyo: 40 Minutes
Aagh, oh, I don't even care anymore!
THERE'S A 99.9% CHANCE YOU'RE BEING SUCKERED, DECEIVED, AND TAKEN FOR A RIDE!!
THEN MARK MY WORDS !!
Please, just plaaaay!!
Yes, yes, okay, uh~~~ whatever you want, just say the words, please!
OKAY, THEN THE PLAN'S ALL SET! ☆
LIKE I SAID, PLEASE, JUST HURRY UP AND PLAY!!
THEN YOU'LL BRING THEM?!
'I-have-lost☆'. Okay, game's oveeeer!
Don't forget about our plans, okaaay?!!
Chapter 109 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU 2

REGARDING TALKING DURING MATCHES

Whew, that Raidou Kiryuu sure is a chatterbox, isn't he? Of course, there are no players like that in reality. But what he said about 'Ya know, in the old days, everybody used to talk as they played a lot more...' is true. Around the time I was training to become a pro and when I became a pro, there were a plethora of players that talked to themselves or chatted during matches. For one, the major Meijin of the Show Era, Ooyama Yasuharu, the 15th Meijinm, loved idle chat. As one might expect, he didn't talk much with the person he was playing against during matches, but he had a specialty of exchanging a few words with reporters watching the match or pro players that had come to observe. Anything from something as trifling as '****-san, thank you for coming out this afternoon.' to things like rumors going around the shogi world. He also had a knack for talking to himself. In the endgames he would say 'It's gotten more and more complicated.' Or in the midgame he would say 'Okay then, why don't we give this move a shot?' He would interject with all sorts of things like that, talking to himself.

With a top player like that, of course many players followed suit. In this big room people called the banquet hall, literally three rooms with the dividers removed, people would be facing a large number of other people, especially in the morning, so before the pieces started clacking, players, especially veteran players, would talk to each other quite a bit. Different people would talk about different things. The subject of illness would be a staple of veteran players' conversation. Younger players would talk about this and that regarding alcohol they'd drank recently, or about public gambling establishments, or about how last month somebody got a yakuman in mahjong. They didn't even care if they were playing against someone. Not only that, they're frequently chat with their opponents, too.

Once, in the beginning of March, when they were keeping records for the last games of the A-class rank-deciding matches, Ooyama, Yonenaga, Katou Hifumi and some other top players started just talking in some match room. Deeply interested, I listened in and it turns out it was about money. Yes, of course with March comes final income tax returns. Everyone was exchanging information on tax-planning. With all these major events like candidate matches and people going down in rank happening right in front of them, you might be wondering why they're acting so carefree, but taxes are an undeniable major event as well (if you're an adult, you'll be all too aware).

There aren't any players that make small talk in my current match rooms. It's quiet enough where I can say it doesn't happen at all. And I think I can say honestly, I'm oddly nostalgic for the old days. Thinking back to then, there were many players that didn't feel like they have any sensitivity to thinking out their openings, (Sort of a feeling like a real match was the head-on confrontation in the midgame!) and also the available time was overall longer than it is now and everyone knew how you needed to take a breather once in a while if you wanted to stay alive. Now, everyone's thinking about detailed strategies on the 3rd or 4th move. So no one really feels like chatting. ...Correct. The ultimate correct form of a shogi player. The way it should be. It's odd for opponents to be talking to each other while they're in matches, but for some reason, I still have nostalgia for that idyllic atmosphere.aaa